

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance of this subject application are respectfully requested.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants filed an Information Disclosure Statement on October 30, 2003. An initialed copy of the PTO-1449 form submitted therewith is respectfully requested.

The drawings stand objected to requiring Figure 5 elements 14, 24, 34, 16, 26, 28, 30, 32, 110, and 120 to include functional labels. Replacement Figure 5 submitted with this response includes the required functional labels.

The drawings also are objected to with the Examiner requiring that the "'further laser beams' (which must be three or greater) recited in claims 5 and 13 must be shown." Replacement Figure 5 now includes an explicit showing of further laser beams in that a third laser has been added. No new matter has been added to the application. Support for this drawing amendment is found both on page 8, lines 17-18 and in the originally-filed claims 5 and 13. Withdrawal of the drawing objections are respectfully requested.

Claims 12, 13, 16, 17, 20 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 second paragraph, for indefiniteness. These claims are believed to be moot or overcome by this amendment. Claim 12 is cancelled and its subject matter incorporated into the preamble of claim 9. This overcomes the problems noted with respect to claims 13, 16, and 17 originally depending on claim 12. Claims 20 and 21 are cancelled. Withdrawal of the rejection under §112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

The Examiner notes that claims 5 and 13 include allowable subject matter.

Independent claim 1 incorporates the allowable subject matter of claim 5. Independent claim 9 incorporates the allowable subject matter of claim 13. A new set of apparatus claims 22-27 has been added that do not use means plus function language, and which incorporate the allowable feature of "further lasers for generating one or more further laser beams, a number of the further laser beams corresponding to a number of separate substrate layers to be removed."

Accordingly, all pending claims should now be allowed. This application is in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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